

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes launch of digital procurement system
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EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) in KwaZulu-Natal welcomes the launch of the Province's new electronic procurement system, announced by Finance MEC Francois Rodgers. This bold and overdue reform marks a major step toward eradicating corruption, curbing wasteful expenditure, and building a more ethical, efficient, and accountable public administration.

The PSA has consistently raised concerns regarding the flaws in manual supply chain systems, which have enabled fraudulent practices, inflated pricing, irregular expenditure and delays in service delivery. The digital system, sourced from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, represents a progressive reconfiguration of public procurement, ensuring that financial controls are tightened and that procurement decisions are based on transparency and fiscal discipline.

The PSA applauds the following key features of the new system:

- Automation of procurement processes to reduce human manipulation and favouritism.
- Real-time expenditure tracking and revenue monitoring, supporting data-driven planning.
- Blocking of transactions where the budget is not available, promoting fiscal discipline and accountability.
- Live monitoring of critical vacancy rates, allowing for better human resource planning.
- Disqualification of inflated bids, protecting the public purse from exploitation.

MEC Rodgers' commitment to not spending money that departments do not have speaks to a new era of responsible governance. The PSA encourages all government departments to adopt this principle in full to prevent the damaging practice of unauthorised procurement that harms both workers and service providers.

The PSA calls for capacity building and training for SCM and finance personnel to ensure smooth implementation; stakeholder consultation, including with labour unions, to ensure that workers' input helps shape an ethical procurement culture; strict consequence management for those who attempt to bypass or undermine the new system; clear audit trails to support the work of oversight bodies such as the Auditor-General, and the protection of whistleblowers who report manipulation or abuse of the system.

This system has the potential to restore public confidence in government and strengthen service delivery, provided it is implemented consistently, audited independently, and monitored transparently. It must not be a cosmetic change, but a practical tool for ending the cycle of corruption and mismanagement that has plagued the province for too long.

The PSA reaffirms its commitment to working with the Department of Treasury and other departments in building a capable state that delivers efficiently to its people, honours its contracts, and respects its workers.

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